

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace page 23 of the specification with the following heading and paragraph:

Abstract of the Invention

[[]] A chimeric gene comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a delta 12-fatty acid epoxxygenase enzyme and transgenic plants containing the chimeric gene are described. Expression of the chimeric delta 12-epoxxygenase gene leads to altered levels of fatty acids in transformed cells.

Please replace all the full paragraphs under the heading, Brief Description of the Drawings on page 6 of the amended specification filed January 20, 2004 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

~~FIG. 1: The nucleotide sequence comprising the cDNA encoding a *Stokesia laevis* fatty acid epoxxygenase (SEQ ID NO:1).~~

~~Figure 2: The deduced amino acid sequence of *Stokesia laevis* fatty acid epoxxygenase (SEQ ID NO:2) derived from the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1.~~

Figures [[3A-3C]] 1A-1C show an alignment of the *Stokesia laevis* epoxxygenase cDNA with *Veronia* (SEQ ID NO:9) and *Crepis* epoxxygenase cDNA (SEQ ID NO:10).

Figures [[4A-4D]] 2A-2D: GC-MS analysis of fatty acid derivatives from transgenic *Arabidopsis* seeds. (A) Chromatograms from transgenic *Arabidopsis* transformed with pCAMBIA1202 comprising the cDNA from *Stokesia laevis*. (B) Chromatograms from *Arabidopsis* seeds transformed with empty vector, pCAMBIA 1201 as a control. (C) Mass spectrum of the compound giving rise to peak 5 at 13.94 min. in chromatogram (A), and (D) a standard vernolic acid. M/z, mass-to- charge ratio.

Figures ~~[[5A-5B]]~~: 3A-3B show (A) elution of Vernolic acid from a column at 13.957 min. and (B) a control.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 14 of the specification with the following:

The ATG start site of the open reading frame for 378 amino acids (SEQ ID NO:2) is at 93 and the stop codon is at 1227.

Please replace the second full paragraph under the heading Example 4 on page 15 of the specification with the following:

To verify the enzymatic activity of the gene product, the protein was expressed in seeds of *A. Thaliana* plants. In seeds of transgenic *Arabidopsis*, vernolic acid was detected with GC-MS, but no vernolic acid was detected in control plants transformed with the empty vector ~~[[FIG. 3]]~~(Figures 1A-1C).

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 17 of the specification with the following:

A soybean line expressing the *Stokesia* epoxxygenase gene was generated using the methods described above. The transferred soybean clearly shows elevated vernolic acid relative to control soybean somatic embryos. ~~[[FIG.]]~~Figures ~~[[4]]~~3A-2B. Vernolic acid elutes from the column at 13.957 min. as designated by the arrow in ~~[[FIG. 4]]~~Figures 3A.